

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

301206Z Jan 92

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USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 0615  
COMSIXTHFLT//N2//  
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON//N24//  
CTF SIXTWO  
CTF SIXONE  
USEUCOM VAIHINGEN GE//ECJ3/ECJ5//  
WHITE HOUSE WASHDC 0111

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 04 ZAGREB 00146

SIPDIS

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [PGOV](#) [PGOV](#)

SUBJECT: LETTER OF CROATIAN PRESIDENT FRANJO TUDJMAN  
TO MEMBERS OF CONGRESS

1. THERE FOLLOWS LETTER OF JANUARY 21 OF CROATIAN  
PRESIDENT FRANJO TUDJMAN TO MEMBERS OF CONGRESS  
CONCERNING HIS WRITINGS AND PERSONAL VIEWS ON THE  
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SITUATION OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY IN CROATIA.

BEGIN TEXT.

JANUARY 21, 1992

DEAR MEMBER OF CONGRESS:

ON BEHALF OF THE CITIZENS OF INDEPENDENT, DEMOCRATIC  
CROATIA, I EXTEND MY GREETINGS TO THE DISTINGUISHED  
AND ESTEEMED MEMBERS OF THE U.S. CONGRESS.

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I AM COMPELLED TO COMMUNICATE WITH YOU IN RESPONSE TO  
RECENT ARTICLES THAT HAVE APPEARED IN THE GENERAL  
PRESS IN THE U.S. THAT HAVE ACCUSED ME OF THE SERIOUS  
CHARGE OF ANTI-SEMITISM. THE BASELESS CHARGES STEM  
MAINLY FROM INACCURATE TRANSLATIONS FROM CROATIAN INTO  
ENGLISH OF MY WRITINGS AS WELL AS QUOTATIONS THAT ARE  
EITHER ERRONEOUS OR TAKEN OUT OF CONTEXT.

I AM DEEPLY TROUBLED BY THESE FALSE ALLEGATIONS AND  
CONSIDER THEM TO BE A STAIN ON MY PERSONAL CHARACTER  
AND HONOR, AND BY EXTENSION THAT OF THE CROATIAN  
PEOPLE. THIS LETTER IS MEANT TO SEEK YOUR  
UNDERSTANDING AS REPRESENTATIVES OF THE AMERICAN  
PEOPLE OF MY PAST AND PRESENT POSITION ON THE SUBJECT.

1. IN 1941, THE NAZI PUPPET REGIME IN OCCUPIED  
CROATIA PUT A PRICE ON MY HEAD. THE SAME YEAR, A  
LEADING JEWISH PHYSICIAN FLED CROATIA AND ENTRUSTED ME  
WITH THE SAFEKEEPING OF HIS SON.

2. I FOUGHT THE NAZIS DURING WORLD WAR II AS A MEMBER  
OF THE RESISTANCE FORCES, ATTAINING THE RANK OF  
GENERAL. MANY CROATIANS FOUGHT AGAINST THE USTASHA  
REGIME OF TERROR AND EVIL AND AGAINST THE NAZI-FASCIST  
OCCUPATION.

3. MY BROTHER WAS KILLED BY THE NAZIS IN 1943.

4. MY MOTHER AND FATHER WERE KILLED BY THE COMMUNISTS  
IN 1946.

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5. I WAS JAILED BY THE POST-WAR COMMUNIST REGIME  
BECAUSE OF MY ANTI-TOTALITARIAN POLITICAL VIEWS.

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ACTION EUR-01

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| INFO        | LOG-00 | AID-01  | CIAE-00 | C-01  | DODE-00     | CSCE-01 | HA-09   |
|             | H-01   | INRE-00 | INR-01  | IO-19 | L-03        | ADS-00  | NSAE-00 |
|             | OIC-02 | OMB-01  | PA-02   | PM-01 | PRS-01      | P-01    | SCT-03  |
|             | SNP-01 | SP-01   | SSO-00  | SS-01 | TRSE-00     | T-01    | /052W   |
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FM AMCONSUL ZAGREB  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0352  
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE IMMEDIATE  
USIA WASHDC 1146  
AMEMBASSY ANKARA  
AMEMBASSY ATHENS  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST  
AMEMBASSY LISBON  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG  
AMEMBASSY MADRID  
AMCONSUL MILAN  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMCONSUL MUNICH  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
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AMEMBASSY VIENNA  
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USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 0616  
COMSIXTHFLT//N2//  
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON//N24//  
CTF SIXTWO  
CTF SIXONE  
USEUCOM VAIHINGEN GE//ECJ3/ECJ5//  
WHITE HOUSE WASHDC 0112

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SIPDIS

E.O. 12356: N/A  
TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [PGOV](#) [PGOV](#) [PGOV](#)  
SUBJECT: LETTER OF CROATIAN PRESIDENT FRANJO TUDJMAN  
TO MEMBERS OF CONGRESS

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16. I AM UNALTERABLY OPPOSED TO OPPRESSION FROM THE  
RIGHT AND THE LEFT, AND I CONDEMN IN THE STRONGEST  
TERMS POSSIBLE THE EVIL GENOCIDE WHICH THE NAZIS AND  
THEIR PUPPET COLLABORATORS IN CROATIA AND OTHER  
COUNTRIES PERPETRATED AGAINST THE JEWS, GYPSIES,  
CROATIANS, SERBS AND OTHER GROUPS.

THE SYSTEMATIC PROCESS THE NAZIS DEVELOPED AND  
IMPLEMENTED TO EXTERMINATE THE JEWS OF EUROPE MADE IT,  
UNDENIABLY, ONE OF THE GREATEST CRIMES IN HISTORY  
AGAINST MANKIND.

IN THIS REGARD, THE USTASHA REGIME OF THE INDEPENDENT  
STATE OF CROATIA COMMITTED COUNTLESS WAR CRIMES AND

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CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY. I DEEPLY REGRET THE FACT  
THAT THE JEWISH COMMUNITY OF CROATIA WAS VICTIMIZED AS  
PART OF THE HOLOCAUST OF WORLD WAR II.

AS PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA, I WILL OPPOSE

THE SPECTER OF ANTI-SEMITISM IN CROATIA WHENEVER IT REARS ITS UGLY HEAD, AS IT DOES FROM TIME TO TIME IN MANY COUNTRIES. I WILL NOT TOLERATE ANTI-SEMITISM IN ANY FORM WHATSOEVER. ALL CROATIANS INCLUDING CROATIAN JEWS KNOW THIS. I FOUGHT FOR AND STRONGLY SUPPORT THE NEW CONSTITUTION OF CROATIA WHICH PROTECTS INDIVIDUAL HUMAN RIGHTS AND GUARANTEES THE RIGHTS OF ALL MINORITIES IN CROATIA.

SINCE MY ELECTION ON APRIL 1, 1990, I HAVE TAKEN THE FOLLOWING STEPS IN SUPPORT OF THIS POLICY:

1. I HAVE ISSUED AN APPEAL SEEKING FUNDS TO RESTORE THE DESTROYED JEWISH SYNAGOGUE IN ZAGREB, AND I AM WORKING WITH CROATIAN JEWS TO ACHIEVE THAT OBJECTIVE. IN ADDITION, I HAVE RETURNED THE PROPERTY PREVIOUSLY CONFISCATED BY THE STATE TO ITS RIGHTFUL OWNERS, THE JEWISH COMMUNITY OF CROATIA.

2. I PUBLICLY ENDORSED THE REPEAL OF THE "ZIONISM IS RACISM" RESOLUTION IN THE UNITED NATIONS, WHICH PASSED THE UN.

3. I OFFERED TO PROVIDE TRANSIT TO JEWS WISHING TO EMIGRATE FROM THE FORMER SOVIET UNION TO ISRAEL.  
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UNTIL THE OUTBREAK OF THE RECENT SERBIAN WAR OF AGGRESSION AGAINST CROATIA, EL AL HAD REGULAR DIRECT

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ACTION EUR-01

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|             | H-01   | INRE-00 | INR-01  | IO-19 | L-03        | ADS-00  | NSAE-00 |
|             | OIC-02 | OMB-01  | PA-02   | PM-01 | PRS-01      | P-01    | SCT-03  |
|             | SNP-01 | SP-01   | SSO-00  | SS-01 | TRSE-00     | T-01    | /052W   |
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FM AMCONSUL ZAGREB  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0353  
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE IMMEDIATE  
USIA WASHDC 1147  
AMEMBASSY ANKARA  
AMEMBASSY ATHENS  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST  
AMEMBASSY LISBON  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG  
AMEMBASSY MADRID  
AMCONSUL MILAN  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMCONSUL MUNICH  
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AMEMBASSY VIENNA  
USMISSION USNATO 1404

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USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 0617  
COMSIXTHFLT//N2//  
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON//N24//  
CTF SIXTWO  
CTF SIXONE  
USEUCOM VAIHINGEN GE//ECJ3/ECJ5//  
WHITE HOUSE WASHDC 0113

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E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [PGOV](#) [PGOV](#) [PGOV](#)

SUBJECT: LETTER OF CROATIAN PRESIDENT FRANJO TUDJMAN  
TO MEMBERS OF CONGRESS

FLIGHTS FROM ZAGREB TO TEL AVIV.

14. FOLLOWING THE RECENT BOMBING OF THE JEWISH  
COMMUNITY CENTER BY UNKNOWN INDIVIDUALS, I ATTENDED A  
RALLY OF 40,000 CROATIAN CITIZENS TO EXPRESS MY  
SOLIDARITY AND SUPPORT FOR THE 1200-MEMBER JEWISH  
COMMUNITY OF ZAGREB.

15. AS SOON AS THE SITUATION IN CROATIA PERMITS, I  
HAVE EVERY INTENTION OF TRAVELLING TO ISRAEL TO MEET  
WITH ISRAELI GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND CITIZENS, AND TO  
VISIT THE YAD VASHEM MEMORIAL MUSEUM ON THAT  
OCCASION. I WISH TO REITERATE MY DEEPEST SORROW AND  
REGRET ABOUT THE LOSSES SUSTAINED BY THE JEWISH  
COMMUNITIES IN EUROPE AND TO VOW IN THEIR MEMORY THAT  
SUCH EVENTS WILL NEVER HAPPEN AGAIN.

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16. TWELVE JEWS SERVE IN HIGH RANKING POSITIONS WITHIN  
THE CROATIAN GOVERNMENT TODAY, INCLUDING THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT, TWO JUDGES OF THE SUPREME  
COURT, THE MINISTER OF HEALTH, THE DEPUTY ATTORNEY  
GENERAL, AND THE DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER.

17. A MAJOR STREET IN THE CENTER OF ZAGREB WILL BE  
DEDICATED IN MEMORY OF THE CROATIAN JEWS WHO WERE  
PERSECUTED DURING WORLD WAR II.

THE PEOPLE OF CROATIA ARE STRUGGLING TO BUILD LASTING  
DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS AND TO ASSURE A FREE AND  
DEMOCRATIC FUTURE FOR GENERATIONS TO COME. I URGE YOU  
NOT TO BE MISLED AND MISINFORMED BY PROPAGANDA FROM  
COMMUNIST SOURCES AND THEIR AGENTS SEEKING TO FALSELY  
DEFAME ME AND, THUS, TO MANIPULATE FOR THEIR OWN  
SINISTER PURPOSES THE SERIOUS SUBJECT OF THE  
HOLOCAUST, THEREBY DAMAGING THE IMAGE AND ACCURATE  
IDENTITY OF CROATIA AND ITS PEOPLE.

I LOOK FORWARD TO ESTABLISHING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS  
WITH THE U.S. IN THE NEAR FUTURE AND ENHANCING THE  
FRIENDSHIP THAT ALREADY EXISTS BETWEEN THE PEOPLE OF  
OUR TWO DEMOCRATIC NATIONS.

IN CLOSING, I REITERATE MY COMPLETE AND TOTAL  
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DEDICATION TO THE FULFILLMENT OF THE MOST ESSENTIAL  
TENETS OF DEMOCRACY: RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE  
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GUARANTEE OF FREEDOM AND PROTECTION OF MINORITY RIGHTS.

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ACTION EUR-01

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| INFO | LOG-00 | AID-01  | CIAE-00 | C-01  | DODE-00 | CSCE-01 | HA-09   |
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0354  
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE IMMEDIATE  
USIA WASHDC 1148  
AMEMBASSY ANKARA  
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AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST  
AMEMBASSY LISBON  
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AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMCONSUL MUNICH  
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AMEMBASSY VIENNA  
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CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON//N24//  
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TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [PGOV](#) [PGOV](#) [PGOV](#)  
SUBJECT: LETTER OF CROATIAN PRESIDENT FRANJO TUDJMAN  
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FRANJO TUDJMAN  
PRESIDENT

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